

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM
& SUN

re. 373,849

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

Date: NOV 17 1964

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Peking Rejects U.S. Mother's Appeal for Son

HONG KONG — The brother of an American serving a life sentence in Red China as an alleged Central Intelligence Agency spy said the Chinese Communists have turned down his mother's appeal for his release.

William Downey and his mother, Mrs. Mary Downey, of New Britain, Conn., passed through the Bamboo Curtain Nov. 5 to visit the brother, John, and to make a new plea for his release.

William said they visited John eight times in Peking and found him in good spirits.

"As far as I can see, he looks healthy and he has pretty decent clothes," William said. He also said he and his mother did not see any Chinese Communist government officials during their stay in Peking, but they saw Red Cross representatives.

When he and his mother crossed the border at Hong Kong, they carried a complete report on the Presidential election results. Asked if the authorities at the prison allowed them to take the report into prison, William said they did.